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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY USSR

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. The Slava whaling fleet was organized in Odessa [REDACTED] in 1947. Its official name was Kitoboy'naya Ekspeditsiya Slava. The home port for this fleet was Odessa [REDACTED]. The most recent head of this fleet, [REDACTED] was Captain Director of the Fishing Fleet (equivalent to General Director Merchant Fleet third class) (fnu) Solyanik. The fleet was composed of a leader whaling ship (matka), the Slava with a displacement of 30 thousand tons, and 15 whale-hunting ships with the names Slava-1 to Slava-15. These were new steam-engine trawlers, with displacement of approximately 300 tons [REDACTED]

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2. [REDACTED]
3. The Slava was manned by approximately 800 men. The expedition was planned so as to start out sometime in September every year and to return to Odessa in the middle of May. [REDACTED]

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4. Recruitment of personnel for the Slava fleet was on a voluntary basis and was conducted through the recruitment facilities of the MGB. Since men from Astrakhan are known as the best Soviet fishermen, the recruiting drive was very strong in that city, and a large number of people from this area joined

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the Slava fleet. Also recruited were many inhabitants of Soviet northern regions, who are accustomed to arctic climatic conditions. Applicants had to pass a rigid security and loyalty check, and because of these checks it was rather difficult to join the whaling fleet.

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the normal whale-hunting procedure was as follows: the leader whaling ship, the Slava, which actually was a whale-processing ship, would lay anchor in a central spot of a prospective whale-hunting area. From this place all 15 whale-hunting ships would spread out to hunt. The ships Slava -1 to -15 were equipped with harpoon cannon. As soon as a hunter ship harpooned a whale, it would tow it to the leader ship, where the whale would be taken on board and immediately processed. This procedure was repeated until the leader ship was loaded with whale blubber or the hunting season ended. After this, the entire expedition returned to Odessa.

6. There was a special training course in Odessa for new personnel of the Slava whale expedition. This course was obligatory for all new personnel. The course lasted nine months, and the students were divided into two groups: antarctic navigators, and whale processing personnel.

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